Drinking Water Mission

4011. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that after the formation of Drinking Water Mission and completion of water supply and sanitation decade, there are still thousands of villages where water is not available;

(b) whether, even in urban areas, the population without access to potable water is increasing ;

(c) how for the target for the 90s to provide drinking water to every citizen has been achieved ; and

(d) whether any plan has been formulated to provide drinking water to all upto year 2000; if so, its broad features ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) As per reports received upto February, 1992 from various States/Union Territories, there were 4407 'No Source' problem villages yet to be provided safe drinking water facilities;

(b) The percentage of population without access to potable water supply in urban areas has not increased. The population coverage has increased from 72.25 as on 31-3-81 to 83.81% as on 31-12-90.

(c) Based on the mid-term review, it was envisaged to provide 90% population in urban areas and 85% in rural areas with safe drinking water facilities by the end of the decade. The actual coverage due to financial and other constraints in case of urban population as on 31-12-90 was 83.81%. The rural population covered is 89.6% upto the end of February, 1992.

(d) All the remaining 'No Source' problem villages are likely to be covered by 31-3-93. For this purpose, the Central Government has given special central assistance to the concerned States. The partially covered population/villages/habitations are likely to be covered fully by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Subject to the availability of funds, material, infrastructure etc., it is proposed to cover the entire urban population with drinking water facilities upto the year 2000.

Scheme for drinking water

4012. SHRI JAGADISH JANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a scheme to make a provision of drinking water to 80,000 villages;

(b) whether the scheme was to be named after the Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) There is no proposal to introduce any new scheme to provide safe drinking water in villages. Safe drinking water facilities are provided under the existing Plan programmes—National Drinking Water Mission, Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme.

(b) National Drinking Water Mission has been renamed as 'Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission'.

(c) All the remaining No Source problem villages numbering 4581 as on 31-1-1992 are likely to be covered with safe drinking water facilities by 31-3-93. All partially covered villages/habitations will be covered fully during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Priority to Rural Development Schemes

4013. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government are according priority to the schemes relating to rural development in the Eighth Five Year Plan period ;

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes; and

(c) what is the plan outlay for this purpose and how many families would be benefited by this programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL) : (a) Schemes relating to rural development have been an important concern of planning in India. Specific programmes for alleviation of poverty in rural areas focused on people living below the poverty line are likely to continue during the VIIIth Five Year Plan.

(b) Following rural development schemes are likely to be implemented in the VIIIth Five Year Plan.

(1) Poverty Alleviation Programmes which include Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), and its subsidiary schemes of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment